

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-10 and 12-15 are rejected. In response, independent claims 1, 6 and 10 are amended, and claims 5 and 7 are cancelled. The pending claims in this application are claims 1-4, 6, 8-10 and 12-15, with claims 1 and 10 being independent.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the step of setting the portable composite device in the web camera mode and determining whether the mode of the portable composite device is in the web camera mode, and whether the personal computer is connected to the interface. Claim 1 is further amended to recite the portable composite device setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode when the portable composite device is set in the web camera mode and is connected to the personal computer without requiring a user's additional command. Claim 1 is also amended to recite the method of setting the zone lens and adjusting the focal distance as in original claims 5 and 7. Claim 10 is amended to recite the control unit of the portable composite device setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode in response to an external control signal from a personal computer and in response to setting a web camera mode of the portable composite device and to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 7. These features are supported by the specification as originally filed.

In view of these amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. . 2002/0135677 to Noro et al. Noro et al. is cited for

disclosing the claimed method for setting a web camera mode for a portable composite device.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a method of setting a web camera mode for a portable composite device having an interface connectable with a personal computer and a zoom lens by setting the portable composite device in the web camera mode, determining whether the mode of the portable composite device is set in the web camera mode, and whether the personal computer is connected to the interface and where the portable composite device sets the zoom lens to a wide angle mode on the basis of a preset value when the web camera mode is set and the portable composite device is connected to the personal computer. According to the present invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 10, if the composite device is in a web camera mode, the composite device automatically (without requiring an additional command from a user) sets a zoom lens to a wide-angle mode. The composite device of the present invention uses a distance computed based on a preset distance when adjusting a focal distance.

Noro et al. provides for a user to manually control the camera using a personal computer (PC) and adjusts the focal distance based on zoom speed. Noro et al. does not disclose these steps so that claim 1 is not anticipated. Noro et al. does not disclose the step of setting the portable composite device in the web camera mode and determining whether the web camera mode is set and the personal computer being connected to the interface as in claim 1.

The Action refers to paragraph 0084 and to step S11 in Figure 9 of Noro et al. These passages do not disclose the claimed step. In particular, step S11 in Figure 9 of Noro et al. refers only to detecting a connection between the camera and the personal computer. This step does not refer to setting the camera in a web camera mode or

determining whether the web camera mode is set. Paragraph 0084 refers to the operator clicking one of the operation buttons 61 to 74 on the camera console window. These buttons as disclosed in paragraph 0072 refer to the buttons for adjusting the camera lens. Thus, Noro et al. specifically discloses the operator adjusting the position of the lens and the camera using a pointing device. There is no reference in either of these passages of a web camera mode being set on the camera or determining whether a web camera mode is set in the camera as claimed.

The Action refers to paragraph 0072 as allegedly setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode on the basis of a preset value. This passage does not disclose or suggest this step. As noted above, this passage refers only to the buttons that are operated by the user. There is no suggestion of setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode on the basis of a preset value when the portable composite device is in a web camera mode and is connected to a personal computer as recited in claim 1. The zoom or wide angle mode of the lens in Noro et al. is adjusted by the operator by manually selecting the button or by the pointing device also manipulated by the user. Thus, Noro et al. does not disclose the step of setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode based on a camera being set in a web camera mode as claimed. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Noro et al.

Claims 2 and 8 are also not anticipated by Noro et al. as depending from claim 1 and for reciting additional features of the invention that are not disclosed or suggested in Noro et al. For example, Noro et al. does not disclose providing an image signal corresponding to an image acquired by the zoom lens set to the wide angle mode of the web camera mode to the personal computer in combination with the features of claim 1. The passages referred to in the Action disclose controlling the camera to have a target pan and tilt angles and zoom ratio as read from the storage

unit 32. The image signal of Noro et al. does not correspond to a wide angle mode set by a web camera mode as in the present invention.

Noro et al. further fails to disclose the step of releasing a setting of a wide angle mode if the personal computer is disconnected from the interface as in claim 8 in combination with the features of claim 1. The Action refers to paragraph 0084 and Figure 9. This passage refers to displaying a message if the camera console is not connected to a camera mode. This passage does not disclose releasing the wide angle mode setting of a portable composite device when a personal computer is disconnected as recited in claim 8. Accordingly, claim 8 is not anticipated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Noro et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0112342 to Takeuchi. Noro et al. is cited as allegedly disclosing the method of setting a web camera mode by setting a portable composite device in a web camera mode and determining whether a web camera mode is set and whether the personal computer is connected to the interface as in claim 1. Takeuchi is cited for disclosing setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode based on color temperature of the image.

Takeuchi discloses a processing system to provide high quality pickup images by arranging signals where a white balance is performed. The device includes a calculating device to calculate the control values as preset white control values. The white control values are obtained by a reference digital camera with light sources having different color temperatures.

Takeuchi does not disclose setting a camera to a web camera mode or setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode based on the set web camera mode and setting the

zoom lens to the wide angle mode based on the color temperature. The passage referred to in the Action does not disclose the steps of claims 3 and 4 in combination with the steps of claim 1 either alone or in combination with Noro et al.

Takeuchi discloses calculating the control values using different light sources having an arbitrary set fixed color temperature by the reference digital camera signal and adjusting the image data obtained by picking up the arbitrarily set fixed light source by the digital camera. Takeuchi does not suggest setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode and setting a color temperature of the image signal to a specified color temperature.

Takeuchi further fails to disclose setting a color temperature by calculating a color temperature difference between a preset color temperature and a color temperature of the image signal and compensating for the preset color temperature for setting a camera lens to a wide angle mode as in claim 4. Takeuchi does not disclose setting a lens to a wide angle mode based on the color temperature as in claims 3 and 4. Thus, claims 3 and 4 are not obvious over the combination of Noro et al. and Takeuchi. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Noro et al. in the manner disclosed in Takeuchi. Even if one were to do so, the resulting combination of Noro et al. and Takeuchi would not be the claimed invention.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected as being obvious over Noro et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,570,235 to Yoneyama. Yoneyama is cited for disclosing a drive assembly for adjusting a zoom lens of a camera.

As discussed above, Noro et al. does not disclose or suggest the claimed method of setting a web camera mode of a portable composite device. Yoneyama only discloses a drive device that can be used to adjust the position of a lens.

Yoneyama does not disclose or suggest the deficiencies of Noro et al. as discussed above. Furthermore, Yoneyama does not disclose or suggest a method of setting a lens to a wide angle mode to a preset value based on the setting of a web camera mode in a portable composite device as claimed. Therefore, Yoneyama does not provide the suggestion or motivation to modify the device of Noro et al. in the manner of the claimed invention. Yoneyama also fails to disclose or suggest setting the focal distance of a zoom lens to a preset distance based on a preset web camera mode of a portable composite device as in claim 6. Accordingly, claims 5 and 6 are not obvious over the combination of Noro et al. and Yoneyama.

Claim 7 is rejected as being obvious over Noro et al. in view of Yoneyama and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0040638 to Yoshikawa et al. The Action refers to Yoshikawa et al. as disclosing a step of setting a focal distance to a specified distance by calculating a distance difference between the lens and an object.

Yoshikawa et al. is relevant only to the extent that a device is disclosed which uses driving information for compensating for focal distance. Yoshikawa et al. in combination with Noro et al. and Yoneyama do not suggest the features of the claimed invention. In particular, Yoshikawa et al. does not suggest setting a focal distance of a lens based on a selected web camera mode by calculating the distance difference between the zoom lens and an object based on a preset value and compensating for the focal distance according to the calculated difference.

Yoshikawa et al. discloses adjusting the focus of the lens but does not disclose calculating the distance difference between a zoom lens and an object based on a preset value as in claim 7. Thus, claim 7 is not obvious over the combination of Noro et al., Yoneyama and Yoshikawa et al.

Claim 9 is rejected as being obvious over Noro et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0017653 to Hata. The Action refers to Hata as disclosing a step of determining whether a video camera is used in a mass storage mode.

Hata discloses a digital video camera that is able to function as an internet server. The internet server determines whether a request for transmitting the moving storage data has been made from a personal computer. Hata does not suggest a step of determining whether a portable composite device is used in a mass storage mode and transmitting video or audio data from the portable composite device to the personal computer as in claim 9. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Hata with the device and method of Noro et al. Even if one were to do so, the resulting combination would not be the method of claim 9 in combination with the method steps of claim 1. Thus, claim 9 is not obvious over the combination of Noro et al. and Hata.

Claims 10, 14 and 15 are rejected as being obvious over the combination of Hata in view of Yoshikawa et al. Hata is cited for disclosing a portable device having a control unit and a switching unit for switching and transmitting either digital data stored in a storage medium or digital data corresponding to an electrical signal. As noted in the Action, Hata does not disclose a control unit for setting a position of the zoom lens. Yoshikawa et al. is cited for disclosing a control unit for setting a position of the zoom lens in the image pickup unit to a wide angle mode on the basis of a preset value.

The combination of Hata and Yoshikawa et al. do not suggest a portable composite device comprising an image pickup unit, a decoder, storage medium for the digital data, an encoder, a control unit for setting a position of the zoom lens in the image pickup unit to a wide angle mode in response to setting a web camera mode of

the portable composite device and a switching unit for switching and transmitting either the digital data stored in the storage medium or the digital data corresponding to the electrical signal to a serial port in response to the mode selection signal from the control unit.

Hata does not disclose a portable composite device having a control unit for converting an electrical signal output from the image pickup unit into digital data and generating a mode signal for selecting either data stored in the storage medium or digital data corresponding to the electrical signal from the image pickup in combination with a control unit which sets a position of the zoom lens in the image pickup unit in response to an external control signal from a personal computer. Hata further fails to disclose a switching unit for switching and transmitting either the digital data stored in the storage medium or the digital data corresponding to the electrical signal to a serial port in response to a mode selection from a control unit. Yoshikawa et al. also fails to disclose a control unit for positioning a zoom lens to a wide angle mode in response to an external control signal from a personal computer and in response to setting a web camera mode of the portable composite device. Accordingly, the combination of Hata and Yoshikawa et al. do not reasonably suggest the device of claim 10.


The combination of Hata and Yoshikawa et al. also fail to disclose or suggest the switching unit for outputting the digital data stored in the storage medium in a first logic level and outputting the digital data corresponding to the electrical signal in a second logic level as in claim 14 or the storage medium having a hard disc drive as in claim 15 in combination with the features of the device recited in claim 10. Accordingly, claims 10, 14 and 15 are not obvious over the combination of Hata and Yoshikawa et al.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected as being obvious over Hata in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0112342 to Takeuchi. Takeuchi is cited for disclosing a unit that determines the color temperature for setting a lens position. Takeuchi discloses calculating the control values using different light sources having a set fixed color temperature by the reference digital camera signal. Takeuchi also discloses the adjustment image data obtained by picking up on the set fixed light source by the digital camera. Takeuchi does not suggest a control unit making the digital data correspond to an electrical signal having a preset color temperature value in response to an external control signal. Thus, the features of claim 12 in combination with the portable composite device recited in claim 10 is not obvious over the combination of Hata and Takeuchi.

Takeuchi further fails to disclose the color temperature value is at or about 4500° K as in claim 13 in combination with the features of claims 10 and 12. Thus, claim 13 is not obvious over the combination of the cited patents.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, the claims are submitted to be allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Garrett V. Davis
Reg. No. 32,023

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-9076

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